

III. REMARKS

1. Claim 1 is amended. Claims 6-9 are new.
2. The claims are amended to address the objections noted by the Examiner.
3. Claim 3 is amended to address the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejection.
4. Claims 1-4 are not unpatentable over Nelson et al. ("Nelson") in view of Hollander et al. ("Hollander 1") under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Amended claim 1 now specifically recites a miniature connector as illustrated in FIG. 1. The module of the miniature connector contains an original structure of forming means (25, 26, 27, 29). The module recited by Hollander cannot be as compact as the recited structure of the invention. Cited prior art Hollander lacks the following three features:

- three connection posts for connecting the printed circuit to a specific connector supply and signal transfer cable,
- temperature sensor disposed between the two connection means (20, 20) of the thermocouple,
- the specific structure of circuits as illustrated in FIG. 1, wherein a summation circuit comprises two inputs so as to be respectively connected to the recited differential amplified circuit (25) and to the recited scaling circuit (26), the output of the summation circuit (27) being connected to the input of said linearization circuit (29).

Thus, it cannot be said that the claimed invention only resides (as in prior art Hollander) in providing amplifier means, summing means, scaling means and linearization means. The claimed invention provides an amplification connection device for a thermocouple having very small dimensions and integrating a plurality of electronic functions, making possible its power supply by the cable receiving the measurements from the thermocouple (see specification, page 2, lines 13-18).

In complete contrast, Hollander recites a microprocessor-based solution (Col. 6, lines 13-15) and a power supply with batteries (Col. 5, lines 1-4). The module including the batteries and the printed circuit board having a microprocessor is necessarily not as compact as the proposed technical solution of amended claim 6. Moreover, the solution of Hollander is much more complex and expansive.

Regarding FIG. 3 of Hollander, it cannot be said that a first amplifier 107 respectively connected to a second amplifier 106 and to a third amplifier able to summarize three different signals. (Col. 6, lines 52-52) does anticipate the claimed structure of forming means. In contrast, Hollander recites in addition a microprocessor for taking the signal from the second amplifier 106 and the temperature sensor so as to provide a modulation signal output that goes through a low pass filter circuit to get converted to a DC signal. Such complex teaching does clearly not anticipate the claimed invention.

Nelson also recites a different structure, with a microprocessor 22' (FIGS. 4-6). Accordingly, this prior art does not bring any pertinent element so as to reduce merits of the claimed invention.

5. Claim 5 is not unpatentable over Hollander 1 and further in view of Hollander et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4133700) ("Hollander 2") under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

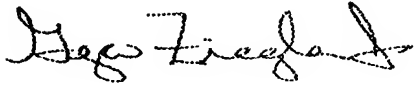
Claim 5 should be allowable at least by reason of its dependency on claim 1.

6. The Examiner states that the IDS filed on October 2, 2003, fails to comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a)(3) and that the submission to the USPTO did not include a copy of the article entitled "A Smart Voltage Processor for Thermo Couples." Applicant respectfully replies that a copy of that reference was included with the earlier submission. However, included with this response is another copy of the reference, together with a new PTO-1449 for consideration by the Examiner.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

A check in the amount of \$430 is enclosed for a two-month extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,



Geza C. Ziegler, Jr.
Reg. No. 44,004

23 November 2004
Date

Perman & Green, LLP
425 Post Road
Fairfield, CT 06824
(203) 259-1800 Ext. 134
Customer No.: 2512

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below as first class mail in an envelope addressed to MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: 23 November 2004

Signature: Margaret Baye
Person Making Deposit